

**Drug use is a choice that women can control if they have enough willpower.**



### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you agree or disagree?
- What assumptions are implied in this statement?
- What can you do in your work to support women who use drugs?

# Thinking Points

- Drug use is more complex than willpower. It is a multi-layered issue, particularly for women who may face social norms related to drug use, gender-based inequality, past or current experiences of trauma, income inequality, physical pain, or other social determinants of health.
- Understanding gender and drug use requires an understanding of complex social systems as well as individual life experiences.
- Harm reduction means supporting women where they are at, while also understanding the social and political context of gender and drug use.



## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

- What social and political factors may impact women's drug use?
- How can you support women who use drugs in your community from a harm reduction perspective?